posts. Thus posting against each post is unique in nature.

As regards transfer policy in Board's office, in normal course officers working in Establishment and Public dealing sections are rotated after they continue in the same post for more than 4/5 years. However, some officers are permitted to continue in the administrative interest to maintain continuity and availability of expertise particularly in the Branches where there have been changes of incumbency in the senior posts.

Renewal of book stall contract

769. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every book stall contract is renewed for a period of five years as per procedure laid down by the Ministry;

(b) whether this procedure is being violated by the Eastern and South Eastern Railways in renewing the bookstall contracts for a period of one year basis for harassing the contractors; and

(c) if so, the details/reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Restriction on sale of all India railway time tables published by private parties

770. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any restriction on the sale of All India time tables ('at a glance') as well as Zonal Railway time tables, published by private parties, on book stalls at Railway stations; and

(b) if so, the details of guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) 'Trains At a Glance' is a copyright publication of Indian Railways. Hence, it cannot be re-produced or sold by unauthorised persons. However, some Time-Tables containing airlines schedules, train timings and tourist information are published and sold by private parties. These private time tables are not authenticated by Railways and Railways do not take any responsibility for the material published therein.

Passenger traffic on routes connecting four metropolitan cities

771. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Railways are contemplating to meet the increasing demand of passenger traffic on routes connecting four metropolitan cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta and Chennai; and

(b) when will the confirmed reservation on the day of journey on trains to above cities be available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Besides augmenting the load of existing services keeping in view the operational feasibility, availability of stock and traffic justification, a weekly Super Deluxe Express between Howrah and Mumbai and a tri-weekly Express between Howrah and Tiruchirappali via Chennai will be introduced during the current year. Besides, extra coaches are also attached and special trains are also run on these corridors to clear extra rush of passengers during Summer/Pooja/winter holidays, etc.

(b) There is a gap between the demand and the availability of reserved accommondation in certain trains running on important routes. However, Tatkal reservation scheme has been introduced on many trains to provide

reservation to passengers at short notice. The reservation under this scheme commences at 8 A.M. on the previous day of the journey. The scheme is being introduced in more and more trains.

Gauge-conversion in Gujarat

772. SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gauge conversion of NG/MG lines into BG lines on the Navlakhi-Dahinsara, Morbi-Wankaner and Dahinsara-Maliya Miyana Railway lines in Gujarat has been sanctioned;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work of gauge conversion has been started; and

(d) if so, when and by when the work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. This work is already sanctioned in the year 1995-96. All clearances have been received and the work has been taken up. Work is planned to be completed in 1999-2000 subject to availability of resources.

Extension of Suburban railway network in Mumbai

773. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken fresh initiatives to upgrade/strengthen/extend suburban railway network in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of the projects finalised/ approved/under implementation/under consideration and progress achieved thereon, project-wise with present status thereof; and

(c) the details of action plan finalised for the current year and Ninth Five Year Plan period-physical and financial targets set, financing pattern finalised for various agencies to strenthen and modernise suburban Railway transport, ensuring safety and security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes Sir, Upgradation/strengthening and extension of suburban railway network in Mumbai is a continuous process. Recently Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Government of Maharashtra and Indian Railways for setting up of Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation to undertake the projects, which have been identified under Mumbai Urban Transport Project-II (MUTP-II). Cost of these projects will be shared in a ratio of 50:50 between Government of Maharashtra and Indian Railways.

(b) and (c) Following are the details or projects which are already sanctioned and are under different stages of implementation:—

Cost of projects under S. Nos. 1, 2 and 3 is being shared between CIDCO and Indian Railways in a ratio of 67:33 S. Nos. 1 to 6 belong to Central Railway, while S. Nos. 7 to 10 pertain to Western Railway.

In addition to above, the following projects have been identified under MUTP-II, which may be taken up in the IX & X Plan period subject to availability of funds under MTP Plan Head. Some of these projects, as also procurement of AC/DC EMUs. could be taken up with the assistance of World Bank. The details are under discussions with the World Bank, and others concerned.

(i) Western Railway optimisation (including 12 car rakes on through line)

(ii) Central Railway optimisation (including 12 car rakes on through line)

(iii) Central Railway 12 cars on local line

(iv) Western Railway 12 cars on local line

(v) 6th line Borivali-Santacruz (vi) Bandra-Kurla East West Line (vii) Optimisation on Harbour Line (viii) 5th line Kurla-Dadar-CST